

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Fig. 3 of the present application, for example.

Examiner Gravini is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned representative during a telephone interview on September 12, 2005. The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Examiner Gravini tentatively agreed that the amendment to claim 1, discussed below, would place this application in condition for allowance.

1. Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under §103(a) over Pinceloup in view of Ledet. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites, among other things, a conveyor oven comprising a heating means for heating the foods conveyed by the conveyor in the heating chamber, and a plurality of suction holes associated with the heating means for recirculating hot air within the chamber. The foods are conveyed to the upper portion of the heating chamber after passing the entrance port, the heating means blows hot air on the food, and the foods are conveyed downward to be carried out from the exit port.

Pinceloup discloses, in Fig. 3, a conveyor oven where food is heated using radiant energy, steam and hot air. Hot air is supplied from outside the heating chamber by a turbine 21, which then propels the air across an electric heating coil 20 and into the heating chamber 2. Pinceloup does not disclose, however, any means for recirculating hot air between the chamber and the heating coils 20. Therefore, Pinceloup fails to disclose the inclusion of a plurality of suction holes associated with the heating means for recirculating hot air within the chamber, as recited in claim 1.

Ledet discloses, in Figs. 7 and 8, and column 2, lines 60-62, a conveyor oven having a cooking region that is "provided for confining by gravity saturated steam which rises and remains in the upper zone of a closed compartment member." Ledet does not disclose, however, cooking within the cooking region using recirculated hot

air. Therefore, Ledet also fails to disclose the inclusion of a plurality of suction holes associated with the heating means for recirculating hot air within the chamber, as recited in claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would not have been taught by either of the cited references to provide a heating means that recirculates hot air within the heating chamber, and there is no evidence in the record that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to alter the teachings of these references to provide a plurality of suction holes associated with the heating means for recirculating hot air within the chamber, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 3-7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 3-7 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date

SPB/TE/tlp

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